

**CITY OF MELFORT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
March 19, 2021**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Friday, March 19, 2021, Council Chambers, Melfort, Saskatchewan, commencing at 2:32 p.m.

PRESENT: COUNCIL: Deputy-Mayor Terry, Chair; Mayor George and Councillors Phillips, Enge, Mitchell, Muntain and Hoenmans.

STAFF: A. Homes, City Manager; S. Peterson, City Treasurer; B. Lutz, Director of Planning, Development & Community Relations; G. Gilmore, Director of Works & Utilities; S. Stewart, Director of Protective Services and H. Audette, City Clerk.

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public due to the fact that the items on the agenda are included in the list of exemptions found in Part III of *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

1. AVATEX RESTRICTIVE COVENANT AGREEMENT

The meeting recessed at 2:48 p.m. for the Special Council meeting. The public portion of the meeting commenced at 2:58 p.m.

2. ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION TOOLS

It was the consensus of the Committee of the Whole to establish mill rate factors for each class with sub-classes to smooth out the impact of the reassessment in those sub-classes that experienced a proportionately higher assessment increase, as detailed in the Treasurer's memo dated March 10, 2021.

3. 2021 OPERATING BUDGET BALANCING OPTIONS

The Committee reviewed the Treasurer's memo dated March 12, 2021, and agreed to the following strategy to balance the 2021 General Operating Budget:

- utilize \$150,000 of the projected 2020 deficit to fund the 2021 deficit (the remaining \$50,000 to be designated to the facility maintenance reserve;
- implement a mill rate increase to fund the \$85,000 allocation to the infrastructure replacement fund;
- increase the base tax on improved properties to the 2021 ceiling and potentially increase the base tax on vacant properties more aggressively, subject to a review of other communities by the Treasurer;
- utilize the mill rate stabilization fund to balance the 2021 operating budget, to be repaid from future surpluses;
- allocate the surplus created by the dissolution of the Vet Services Board to the special capital fund.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk